The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

December 2006 Issue No. 429

LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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FCC "Omnibus" Report Published:

The changes noted in the report will take effect Friday, December 15, 2006 at 12:01am EST. A chart illustrating the band changes can be found on page 4 of the *Exciter*. For a complete explanation of the report and how it affects amateur radio, visit

President's Corner

Column by Dick Bitner W8HYD, RARS President

Well the holiday season is once again here and everyone is busy making plans and getting ready for the New Year. I want to take this time to wish all RARS members a very happy and safe holiday season.

This will be a short column. There has been a very heavy schedule of public service events, various operating activities, and a fun auction within the past few months. The programs at the meetings have been outstanding and promise to continue into 2007. In retrospect, it has been a good year for RARS.

Next year promises to be better for ham radio with the new sunspot cycle beginning and with conditions on the HF bands improving. Code free may yet happen, although like a lot of older hams, I have some mixed feeling about that. New digital modes are making themselves felt (and heard), allowing low power DX contacts. Software-defined radios are becoming common. There's lots of exciting stuff and RARS will be there as it happens.

Enjoy the season, remember why we are here, share some joy and happiness. It's a wonderful life.

Happy Holidays
73
Dick W8HYD

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are $18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are $9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS web site (RARS.org).

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

The *Exciter*

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available.

Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

Editor:
Courtney Enzor
KI4HOS
courtney_enzor@yahoo.com

Attention Seasoned Hams

Announcement by Chuck Littlewood K4HF

The Quarter Century Wireless Association Piedmont Chapter 126 will hold its fourth quarter dinner meeting on December 2 at 11:30 am at Yarborough's Steak House in Lexington, NC. Members and guests are welcome.

Our guest speaker will be Carl Moreschi N4PY. He will give us a video presentation on his software for computer control of amateur transceivers.

More info on our organization is available at http://www.qcwa.org/. For the Piedmont Chapter, go to http://www.qsl.net/qcwa126/. Local Raleigh contacts are Chuck K4HF, Charlie WB4DCM, Dick W8HYD, and Mary Jo K4MJL.

QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm.
The meeting officially starts at 7:30 pm.

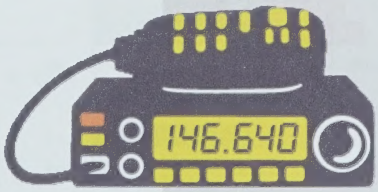
RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family — feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
444.525 (82.5 PL)



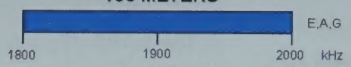
Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

US Amateur Bands

ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO

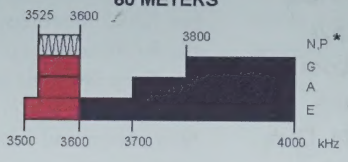
Effective Date December 15, 2006

160 METERS

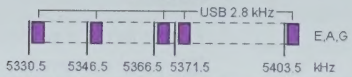


Amateur stations operating at 1900-2000 kHz must not cause harmful interference to the radiolocation service and are afforded no protection from radiolocation operations.

80 METERS

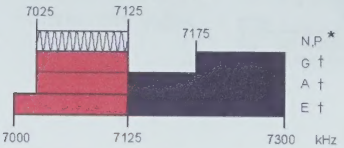


60 METERS



General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra licensees may use the following five channels on a secondary basis with a maximum effective radiated power of 50 W PEP relative to a half wave dipole. Only upper sideband suppressed carrier voice transmissions may be used. The frequencies are 5330.5, 5346.5, 5366.5, 5371.5 and 5403.5 kHz. The occupied bandwidth is limited to 2.8 kHz centered on 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 kHz respectively.

40 METERS

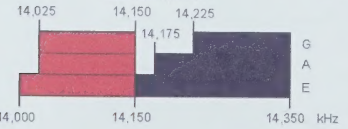


† Phone and image modes are permitted between 7075 and 7100 kHz for FCC licensed stations in ITU Regions 1 and 3 and by FCC licensed stations in ITU Region 2 West of 130 degrees West longitude or South of 20 degrees North latitude. See Sections 97.305(c) and 97.307(f)(11). Novice and Technician Plus licensees outside ITU Region 2 may use CW only between 7025 and 7075 kHz. See Section 97.301(e). These exemptions do not apply to stations in the continental US.

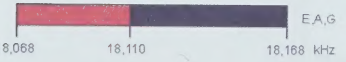
30 METERS

Maximum power on 30 meters is 200 watts PEP output. Amateurs must avoid interference to the fixed service outside the US.

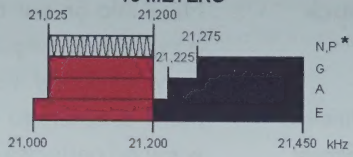
20 METERS



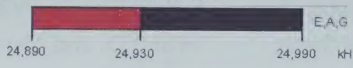
17 METERS



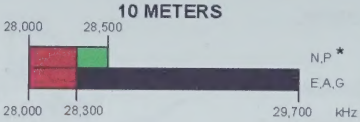
15 METERS



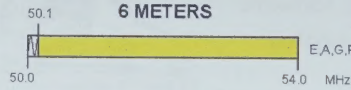
12 METERS



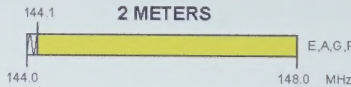
10 METERS



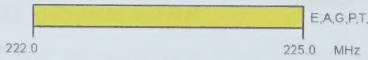
6 METERS



2 METERS

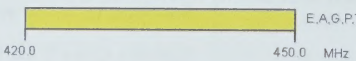


1.25 METERS ***

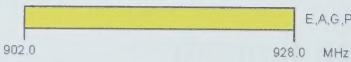


Novices are limited to 25 watts PEP output from 222 to 225 MHz.

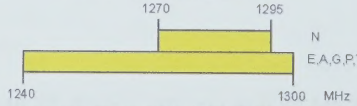
70 CENTIMETERS **



33 CENTIMETERS **



23 CENTIMETERS **



Novices are limited to 5 watts PEP output from 1270 to 1295 MHz.

US AMATEUR POWER LIMITS

At all times, transmitter power should be kept down to that necessary to carry out the desired communications.

Power is rated in watts PEP output. Unless otherwise stated, the maximum power output is 1500 W.

Power for all license classes is limited to 200 W in the 10,100-10,150 kHz band.

Novices and Technicians are restricted to 200 W below 28.5 MHz.

In addition, Novices are restricted to 25 W in the 222-225 MHz band and 5 W in the 1270-1295 MHz subband.

KEY

- = CW, RTTY and data
- = CW, RTTY, data, MCW, test, phone and image
- = CW, phone and image
- = CW and SSB phone
- = CW, RTTY, data, phone, and image
- = CW only
- = USB Phone only

E = AMATEUR EXTRA
A = ADVANCED
G = GENERAL
P = TECHNICIAN PLUS
T = TECHNICIAN
N = NOVICE

*Technicians who have passed the 5 wpm Morse code exam are indicated as "P".

**Geographical and power restrictions apply to all bands with frequencies above 420 MHz. See *The ARRL FCC Rule Book* for more information about your area.

***219-220 MHz allocated to amateurs on a secondary basis for fixed digital message forwarding systems only and can be operated by all licensees except Novices.

All licensees except Novices are authorized all modes on the following frequencies:

2300-2310 MHz
2390-2450 MHz
3300-3500 MHz
5650-5925 MHz
10.0-10.5 GHz
24.0-24.25 GHz
47.0-47.2 GHz
76.0-81.0 GHz
122.25-123.0 GHz
134-141 GHz
241-250 GHz
All above 275 GHz

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Chart courtesy
http://www2.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/Hambands3_color.pdf

Welcome New RARS Members!

Ray Albers K2HYD

Hamfest Calendar

December 2	Farmers Market GAARC Swapfest Gastonia, NC
January 6	FirstFest Swapfest Winston-Salem, NC
February 3	Charleston ARS Hamfest/Convention Ladson, SC
April 21	Catawba Vy Hamfest Morganton, NC

Dates courtesy of *SERA Repeater Journal*.

November Birthdays

John	W2YBN	12/2
Bill	K4SG	12/3
Carol	KC8DSD	12/3
Ronnie	W4RJF	12/6
Bruce	KC4UQN	12/9
Virginia	NC4VA	12/9
Mike	WA4BPJ	12/11
Roger	KS4VX	12/12
Frank	KA2FWC	12/12
Conner	KE4ZNS	12/15
Ed	W4YC	12/16
Cliff	AG4XR	12/17
Kevin	KC4THW	12/18
Roger	W3EZR	12/18
Bert	W4FMN	12/21
Alex	W4FSO	12/24
Herb	KF4NGR	12/25
Mike	WD4MB	12/27
David	KG4RIY	12/27
Dick	KD4ISC	12/31

October 2006 RARS Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net
Check-ins: 455
Traffic: 32/28
Minutes: 715
Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets
Check-ins: 111
Minutes: 466
Sessions: 9

Board Meeting - October 2006

Minutes of the RARS Board of Meeting for October 2006

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on October 17, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Dick Bitner W8HYD, Virginia Enzor NC4VA, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA, Steve Worley KB4HDQ and Dick Orander KD4ISC. Others – Charlie Swindell WB4DCM.

President Dick Bitner W8HYD called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Education – Virginia NC4VA provided the following reports:

- Plans are beginning to be made for the next Technician class. Virginia is proposing to hold classes on January 13, 27, and February 10 at Cisco Systems in RTP. These dates will be formally scheduled once approved by the instructors, Cisco Systems Amateur Radio Club and the Cisco facility.
- Virginia then provided follow up on her request to use the 145.13 repeater for her church's plans for communications support for an emergency shelter at their building. Radio equipment has been set up at the church and about 18 church members have become hams and are interested in training and preparing for emergency communications. She presented a preamble to be used for a training net that would be held on the 145.13 repeater on Sunday evenings at 9 pm. The net will be called the MARA Southeast 2 Meter Net. MARA is the Mercury Amateur Radio Association and is associated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. All radio amateurs are invited to participate. The net may use the MARA callsign of W4LDS. Virginia has spoken with Henry Heller WB2AGA about coordinating the use of the 145.13 repeater with CERT. The Board was supportive of the net which is anticipated to begin in about 3 weeks.
- Plans are in the works for a roll-up J-Pole building class. Virginia is working to coordinate a time with Dick KD4ISC on February 3 or 17.

Vice President's report – Selene KG4RMT advised the October auction went well. Donations for meeting refreshments have been covering costs. The November meeting will be held in the upstairs meeting room and the program will be provided by W4TTX on the Colorado 14'er Event 2006. Club elections will be held in November. The December meeting will feature the Encore Singers. Club members will be asked to bring snacks for the holiday party. RARS will provide cold drinks, coffee and paper products.

On a motion from Hank K4HM and a second from Selene KG4RMT, the September Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Webmaster – Steve KB4HDQ reported there were 1390 unique visitors to the RARS website and 176 downloads of the Exciter in the last month.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM advised first hamfest committee meeting has been conducted. The

RARS Meeting - October 2006

next one will be held on Monday at Chuck's (K4HF) home. Next year's RARSfest has been approved as the 2007 NC State Convention. There are plans to hold another special event station during the hamfest using the N4C callsign.

Public service – Dick KD4ISC reported the Autism Ribbon Run was covered by members of RARS. There are already requests by several organizations for communications support of events next year. The Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) will take place this coming weekend. Chuck K4HF reported there has been good communications support for the Red Cross out at the State Fair.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF advised the ARRL is interested in receiving comments on the FCC's Omnibus/rule changes.

Unfinished Business

The nominating committee's recommendations have been made to the club membership. The Public Service Director's position is still open.

New Business

Rick Kelly-Crapse KB4TKQ and Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ have expressed interest is restarting the Homebrew SIG. They may be interested in providing a J-pole building class in the future. The Board was supportive of the idea getting the SIG going again.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander KD4ISC, Secretary

General Meeting - November 2006

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for November 2006

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on November 7, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

President Dick Bitner W8HYD called the meeting to order.

The following guests were recognized and welcomed to the meeting: Ken McEwen KI4OTO and Steve Schusbel.

Dick W8HYD thanked all who participated in various public service events in September and October. The events included the MS-150, the Red Cross communication staffing at the State Fair and the Jamboree On The Air. There were 52 radio merit badges earned, as well as 3 Webelos badges at this year's JOTA.

Announcements:

The Beachfest 2006 hamfest will be held on November 11 in Conway, SC.
JARSfest will be held on November 19 in Benson, NC.
The RARS monthly dinner will be held on Tuesday, November 14, at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue at 6:30 pm.

Hank Montgomery K4HM reported that RARSfest 2007 planning is underway. The hamfest will be held at the Exposition building at the NC State Fairgrounds on April 1, 2007. There are a couple of key planning positions that need to be filled and volunteers are welcomed.

The group was reminded that SKYWARN nets are held each Tuesday night at 9:15 pm. On Saturday, November 11, there will be a tour of the NWS radar site. Details of the tour are on the Central Carolina SKYWARN website (www.ccskywarn.net).

Chuck Littlewood K4HF again presented the nominating committee's list of candidates for club officers and board member openings:

Officers (2-year term)

- Vice President – Selene Montgomery KG4RMT
- Treasurer – Greg Seamster KE4PAX

Board Members (1-year term)

- Public Information Officer – Gary Pearce KN4AQ
- RARS 2007 Hamfest Chair – Hank Montgomery K4HM
- RARS Exciter Editor – Courtney Enzor KI4HOS
- RARS Net Manager – Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA
- At-Large Director – Charlie Swindell WB4DCM
- At-Large Director – Rod Thomson KI4LSN
- FM Repeater Chair – Gary Pearce KN4AQ

General Meeting - November 2006

- RARS Membership Chair – Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL
- W4DW / W4RNC Trustee – Jeff Wittich AC4ZO
- ARRL Liaison – Chuck Littlewood K4HF
- Education Director – Virginia Enzor NC4VA

Committer Chairmen (1-year term)

- RARS 2007 Field Day Chair – Neal Fisher N4HAF
- RARS Volunteer Exam Coordinators – Liz White KO4CK and Joe White WA4GIR
- RARS Webmaster – Steve Worley KB4HDQ

Chuck then opened the floor for any additional nominations. With nothing heard, a motion was made to record a unanimous vote for the recommended nominees. A second was provided and the vote carried in favor of the motion.

Chuck then announced the next QCWA meeting will be held on Saturday, December 2, at 11:30 am at the Yarborough Steakhouse in Lexington. Carl Moreschi K4PY will present a program on writing and selling software for amateur radio use.

The floor was given to Robert Starkenburg W4TTX who provided the program for the evening on the Colorado 14'er event held in August of this year.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes were taken by Selene Montgomery KG4RMT and were transcribed and submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, RARS Secretary.

Amateur Radio Nets

The RARS Technical & Trader's net is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

The VOIP Hurricane net is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes 11 linked repeaters, spanning piedmont and eastern North Carolina. The net will also be connected to the Reflector 921 Channel 1 so other IRLP links can join in on the net.

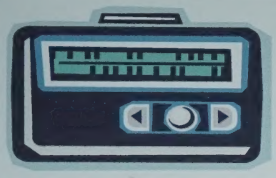
These are the present frequencies and locations that you can use to access the net:

441.725+ (tone of 100.) Raleigh "Backbone Hub" repeater

442.075+ (tone of 88.5) Leland
443.075+ (tone of 100.) Clinton
444.150+ (tone of 100.) Clayton
444.325+ (tone of 100.) Holly Springs
444.375+ (tone of 100.) Henderson
444.550+ (tone of 100.) Coats
444.775+ (tone of 100.) Cary
444.775+ (tone of 131.8) Castle Hayne
444.875+ (tone of 100.) Wendell
444.925+ (tone of 100.) Durham

CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System
www.carolina440.net

If you would like your net information included in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.



Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) net** on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.ccskywarn.net.

Upcoming CCS Information nets include:

December 5 — "Questions and Answers and NWS News Updates" with NWS Meteorologist-in-Charge Darin Figurskey KC2IPY.

December 12 — "Cold Temperatures and Dangers of Fire and Improper Heating" with Jake Alderman KG4VDM, Safety Lt. with Wake Forest Fire Department.

January 9 — "Radiosondes" with NWS Data Acquisition Program Manager Deborah Moneypenny.

January 23 — "Looking Back at the Blizzard: January 24-25, 2000 Snow Event" with NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

The **Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2 Meter Net** meets at 9 pm on the 145.13 repeater (tone 82.5). All stations are invited to participate in this net. MARA provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.

MERCURY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MARA

The **Wake County ARES net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

The RARS
Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
RALEIGH, NC
PERMIT NO. 2130

December RARS Meeting

The December RARS meeting will be Tuesday, December 5th. The program will be musical entertainment by the Encore Singers — it's guaranteed to put you in the holiday spirit!

Refreshments begin at 7 pm. Members are asked to bring a sweet or health snack to share. The club will furnish drinks. A brief meeting, including the installation of officers for the coming year, will start at 7:30 pm. The singers will begin soon after.